

Rejection Under 35 USC 103

Claims 36, 37, 39, 41 and 44 have been rejected under 35 USC 103(a) as unpatentable over LaPorta (US 5974300) in view of Freeny (US 2002/0187779). More specifically, the Patent Office states that:

Regarding claims 36, 39, 41 and 44, LaPorta discloses a computer implemented system for providing a directory of contact information associated with wireless communications devices (in cellular network 24, including a network station adapted to carry out soft-ware based instructions in the generation of a database system of the contact information for wireless communication devices, a contact information gathering system 30 adapted to implement a process to gather from one or more sources the contact information for one or more wireless communications devices, the contact information gathering system 30 including means for the network station to interface with one or more wireless communications service provider stations 24 to obtain contact information for one or more wireless communications devices, and an exchange system 14 which receives from said information gathering system and transmits the contact information for one or more parties upon request. See Fig. 1, and col. 4 lines 44-67.

LaPorta fails to disclose wired means in the contact information gathering system for the network station to interface with wireless communications service provide stations.

However, in an analogous art, Freeny discloses a communication authorization system that includes a contact gathering system 50, 60 that is connected to wireless communications service provider stations 40 through wired lines. See Fig. 1 and paragraph [0050]. Therefore, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to modify the system of LaPorta by including wired means to interface between the contact gathering system and the wireless communications service provider stations, as taught by Freeny, for the purpose of conveniently incorporating the system in an existing wireline environment, such as that in an office or hotel building.

In response to this rejection, Applicant has amended Claim 1 to more completely distinguish the teaching of the cited prior art. More specifically, Claim 1 has been amended to recite “a contact information gathering system adapted to implement a process to gather from one or more [sources] wireless telecommunications service providers the contact information for one or more wireless communications devices, the contact information gathering system including wired means ...”. Neither the LaPorta reference, or LaPorta taken in combination with the cited Freeny reference, teaches the gathering of wireless contact information from a wireless telecommunications service provider. As is discussed in the Background of the Invention

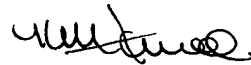
section of the subject patent application, wireless telecommunications service providers to not, at present, provide wireless contact information upon request. As indicated this is due, at least in part, to the fact that only for wireless systems is the receiving party charged by the service provider for incoming contacts. Nothing in the cited references discusses the acquisition of wireless contact information from wireless service providers, and the incorporation of this contact information into a wireless directory which can be accessed by a party seeking wireless contact information.

As to Claims 38 and 43, the teaching of the cited Dreke et al. reference (US 2002/0035594) does not cure the deficiency identified above in connection with the Laporta/Freeny combination. Similarly, as to Claim 40, the cited Thorner et al. (WO98/56158) fails to cure the deficiencies discussed above in connection with the rejection of Claims 36, 37, 39, 41, 42 and 44.

Summary

In light of the above amendment, consideration of the subject patent application is respectfully requested. Any deficiency or overpayment should be charged or credited to Deposit Account No. 500282.

Respectfully submitted,



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